

EXODUS

REDEMPTION : THE STORY



WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHING
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WEEK 2 | EXODUS 5-10



NORTHPARK
Community Church

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READINGS FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Please read the following section prior to the Wednesday night Bible study. This will prepare you for the study and group discussion.

You may read any version. Most of the studies will utilize the NLT and NIV.

THE BOOK OF EXODUS READINGS

Week 1	September 8	Exodus 1-4
Week 2	September 15	Exodus 5-10
Week 3	September 22	Exodus 11:1-15:21
Week 4	September 29	Exodus 15:22- 18:27
Week 5	October 6	Exodus 19-24
Week 6	October 13	Exodus 25-27; 30-31
Week 7	October 20	Exodus 28-29
Week 8	October 27	Exodus 32-40

Session 2A – War is Declared – Exodus 5:1-8:19

I. PHARAOH REJECTS GOD’S WORD (5:1—6:27)

A. Three questions are involved in this event

1. Pharaoh: “Why should I obey the Lord?” - Ex. 5:1-3

Egyptian people considered Pharaoh to be a god →

Moses to Pharaoh → the God of the Hebrews → a powerful God →

2. Pharaoh: “Why should the work stop?” Ex. 5:4-21

The enslavement of the Israelites →

Pharaoh made their labor even harder →

God’s message to Pharaoh→

Moses opposed by his own people →

3. Moses: “Why have You sent me?” Ex. 5:22-6:27

Moses → took his burden to the Lord → blamed God

B. How did the Lord encourage His struggling servant?

1. **God spoke** → Ex. 6:1–8

→ “I am the Lord” (Ex. 6:2, 6, 7, 8) → God’s covenant name → “Yahweh” →

The seven → “I will” promises →

2. **God reminded** → “Yahweh” Ex. 6:3

The patriarchs → “God Almighty” → El Shaddai →

Yahweh → special name of God →

Substitute → “Adonai” (LORD - Master) → HaShem → “the Name”

3. ***The Lord assured*** → Ex. 6:5; Ex. 2:24

4. ***The Lord commanded*** → Ex. 6:9–13

Moses → discouraged

Moses and the elders had given up →

Moses → was still God’s servant →

C. Genealogy - Ex. 6:14–27 →

God prepared Moses and Aaron

Jacob’s family →

God’s calling → means God’s enabling → Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:6

II. PHARAOH BELITTLES GOD’S MIRACLES Ex. 6:28—8:7

Time to reveal God’s power → perform the miraculous signs → prove they were truly sent by God

Reasons the Lord dealt with Pharaoh → why HE sent these sign judgments to the land of Egypt →

The ultimate purpose → to bring Pharaoh and the Egyptians to their knees →
→ The Lord was revealing Himself → proving that He alone is God (Ex. 7:5)

The miracles and plagues → God’s way of judging the gods of Egypt

The Egyptians → Yahweh was the true and living God

The people of Israel →

A. The sign of the serpent Ex. 7:8–13

God gave sign to Moses → He called him in Midian (Ex. 4:1–5)
→ But now it was Aaron who performed it in Pharaoh's palace.

The serpent → special creatures in Egyptian religion → the cobra → a symbol of immortality

Aaron's rod →

The three sign miracles →

1. The staff turned into a serpent →
2. The water turned to blood →
3. The invasion of the frogs →

“Counterfeit” →

In the last days → Satan will attack God's truth →

Paul → named two of the court magicians →

“Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth” (2 Tim. 3:8 NIV).

Jesus → the parable of the tares (Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43) → Satan is a counterfeiter → “plants” imitation Christians in this world

Paul → called them “false brethren” (2 Cor. 11:26)

Satan → an imitation gospel (Gal. 1:6–9) →
→ Counterfeit righteousness (Rom. 10:1–3) →
→ Counterfeit ministers who spread his lies (2 Cor. 11:13–15)
→ Produce a false Christ → deceive the world (2 Thess. 2:1–12)

Pharaoh's magicians →

Satan → opposes God's work → minimizes the power and glory of God

Pharaoh's attitude → “Anything Yahweh can do, we can do better!”

B. The sign of water turned to blood - Ex. 7:14–25

plague (Ex. 9:14; 11:1; 12:13) → “a blow, a stroke” →

First three plagues → distressful (water to blood, frogs, gnats)

Second three → painful and costly (flies, death of the livestock, boils)

Last four → dangerous / destructive (hail, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn)

Nile River turned into blood → other waters → water stored in vessels

Judgment on the Nile River → Hapi god of the Nile → Isis goddess of the Nile

The magicians → duplicated the miracle → didn't reverse the miracle

C. The sign of the invasion of frogs - Ex. 8:1-7

Moses and Aaron commanded Pharaoh → "Let my people go!" → another plague was coming

In Egypt → the frog a fertility symbol → Heqet, goddess of resurrection, fertility, and childbirth → the head of a frog

God told Pharaoh → frogs would go everywhere →

III. PHARAOH HARDENS HIS HEART AGAINST GOD Ex. 8:8-19

Pharaoh → hardened his heart →

What does it mean to harden your heart?

→ To see God at work → refuse to accept His Word and submit to His will →

→ To resist Him → ingratitude and disobedience →

By these various judgments → God was hardening Pharaoh's heart (Ex. 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17)

Was God unfair? →

→ Pharaoh → proud, unrepentant sinner → refused to hear God's Word → do God's will, or keep his own promises →

A. He hardened his heart to God's mercy - Ex. 8-15

Life → miserable for the Egyptians →

Pharaoh → asked Moses and Aaron to remove the pests

→ Admitted frogs sent by the Lord

→ Offered to let the Hebrew people go on their worship trip →
If Moses and Aaron complied with his request → a scheme
Why did Moses let Pharaoh select the time for the frogs to leave?

To prove → Yahweh was the living God →

The plague → not a freakish accident → God was in control.

But why didn't Pharaoh ask for immediate deliverance from the frogs?

Why postpone recovery until the next day?

Perhaps the frogs would leave by themselves →

Moses wasn't about to fail → he and Aaron prayed →

God answered →

How do you get rid of piles and piles of dead frogs?

Moses and Aaron kept their promise →

The Lord → kept His promise →

Pharaoh → refused to keep his word →

B. He hardened his heart to God's power – Ex. 8:16–19

The plague of frogs → God merciful →

Pharaoh → only further hardened his heart

A third plague → the dust of the ground became gnats

Pharaoh's magicians → couldn't duplicate this miracle

A judgment against Set → the Egyptian god of the desert

→ The "finger of God" →

The giving of the law (Ex. 31:18; Deut. 9:10) →

The creation of the heavens (Ps. 8:3) →

The casting out of demons (Luke 11:20) →

Heb. 10:31

Exposition of Exodus – 5:1-10:29

Session 2B - The LORD Mighty in Battle - Exodus 8:20-10:29

God is gracious and longsuffering →

Moses and Aaron dealt with Pharaoh →

God declared all-out war → on Egypt and the gods of Egypt

Pharaoh's responses to these plagues →

I. **BARGAINING – Ex. - 8:20–32**

Pharaoh → the cause of the nation's troubles →

God dealt with Pharaoh in mercy →

A. **God's warning – Ex. 8:20–21**

God warned Pharaoh →

Each plague occurred just as God described it →

The hand of the Lord → against the land of Egypt

B. **God's grace – Ex. 8:22**

A new feature to this plague →

God's providential care of Israel → (Ex. 8:22–23; 9:4, 11; 26; 10:6 ;23; 11:7)

Often in Scripture →

Deliverance through the blood of the Lamb (John 1:29; Gal. 1:4; 1 Peter 1:18–19)

“Distinction” → Ex. 8:23 → “a redemption, a ransom, a deliverance”

C. **God's wrath – Ex. 8:24**

→ Great swarms of flies invaded the land →

Egyptian god Uatchit →

D. Pharaoh's compromises – Ex. 8:25–32

Pharaoh offered four compromises to Moses and Aaron →

(Ex. 8:25, 28) → (Ex. 10:7-11) → (Ex. 8:24-26)

God's people face similar "Egyptian compromises" today →

God's reply → 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 1:27; 4:4

True service to God → giving God complete authority → Mark 10:13–16; Ephesians 6:4; and Deuteronomy 6:6–13

1. Pharaoh's first proposal → (Ex. 8:25) →

2. Pharaoh's second offer → (Ex. 8:28) →

Pharaoh begged for help → (Ex. 8:8; 9:28; 10:16–17) → changed his mind (8:15, 32; 9:34–35; 10:20)

II. RESISTING – Ex. 9:1–12

The purposes of God →

→ Manifested His power → He alone is the true and living God

→ Exposed the futility of the Egyptian religion →

A. The fifth plague – Ex. 9:1–7

Moses announced to Pharaoh → God would send a terrible pestilence

God kept His promise to the Hebrews →

Jacob and his family → Joseph → had flocks and herds (Gen. 45:10; 47:1; 50:8)

→ The Hebrews allowed to keep livestock → (Ex. 12:37–38)

Pharaoh hardened his heart →

The opposite of a hard heart → (Prov. 9:10) → (Eph. 4:18)

B. The sixth plague – Ex. 9:8–12

No warning given this time →

The Hebrews in Goshen protected (Ex. 8:11)

Pharaoh summoned his court magicians →

Egypt was devastated → but Pharaoh would not yield → (*Prov. 29:1*)

III. DECEIVING – Ex. 9:13–35

Didn't look good for Moses → God was in control →

A. A fifth warning – Ex. 9:13–21

The longest warning → the most destructive plague →

Moses gave God's command → with a warning → (Ex. 9:14)

Pharaoh's heart became harder → God's punishments more severe →

1. Moses reminded the king of the Lord's mercy → (*Ex. 9:15*)

2. Moses also reminded Pharaoh of God's sovereign grace (Ex. 9:16) → (*Dan. 4:28–33; Acts 12:20–24*)

If Pharaoh exalted himself against God → then God exalted Himself through Pharaoh (Ex. 9:17)

Paul quoted Ex. 9:16 in Romans 9:17 →

The next day → God would send the worst hailstorm (Ex. 9:18)→

Some of Pharaoh's servants believed God's word and obeyed it →

B. The seventh plague – Ex. 9:22–26

The next day→ God sent thunder, rain (Ex. 9:33), hail, and lightning →

C. Another royal lie – 9:27–35

→ Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron → (Ex. 8:8) → (Ex. 10:16) →
acknowledged the justice of God → (Ex. 10:17) → insincere →

God's grace → stopped the plague

IV. APPEALING – Ex. 10:1–20

God added another reason → great display of His wonders → tell the future generations about the awesome power of their great God

This purpose → the Passover Feast (Ex. 12:26–27; 13:8, 14–15)

Recalling and giving thanks for God’s wonderful deeds → a theme of Deut. → (Deut. 4:34; 7:18–19; 26:5–8; 29:1–3)

A. Interrogation – Ex. 10:3–11

Three questions → confrontation with Pharaoh

1. How long is Pharaoh going to persist in his pride → refuse to humble himself before God?

2. Pharaoh’s officers → *“How long shall this man be a snare unto us?”* (Ex. 10:7)

3. Pharaoh asks → third question: *“Who are the ones that are going?”* (Ex. 10:8)

Angry response (Ex. 10:10–11) → Pharaoh blasphemed the name of God →

B. Invasion – Ex. 10:12–15

God → prepared to respond to Pharaoh’s blasphemy and disobedience

Vast swarms of locusts → devour all remaining vegetation (Ex. 9:32)

Attacked “all the Egyptians” (Ex. 10:6) →

The Hebrews → permitted to eat certain species of locusts (Lev. 11:20–23; Deut. 14:19–20; see Matt. 3:1–4) →

Locust swarms → used to describe anything that quickly invaded and devastated their land (Judg. 6:5; 7:12; Isa. 33:4; Jer. 46:23; 51:14, 27) → (Joel 1–2; Amos 7:1–3)

C. Intercession – Ex. 10:16–19

Egypt ruined (Ex. 10:7) →

→ No vegetation left → creatures invaded the houses (Ex. 10:6)

God's victory over Osiris → Egyptian god of fertility and crops

Pharaoh sought relief without repentance →

God proved His greatness →

IV. THREATENING – Ex. 10:21–29

Ninth plague → darkness over the land → three days → Yahweh greater than Ra (or Re) and Horus → Egyptian sun gods

Light in Goshen → (Ex. 14:19–20)

The world (Egypt) walks in the darkness → God's people walk in the light (John 3:19–21; 1 John 1:5–10)

Pharaoh → made one more offer → go on their journey → couldn't take their flocks and herds

Moses and Aaron → rejected the offer →

God brought Egypt to its knees → (Ex. 11:3)

Moses → delivered God's final warning about the last plague → the death of the firstborn (Ex. 11:4–5) →

On Passover night, Pharaoh pleaded for Moses' help (Ex. 12:31) →

The hardening of Pharaoh's heart → a warning →

If the sinful human heart doesn't respond by faith to God's Word → it cannot be transformed by the grace of God (Ezek. 36:26–27; Heb. 8:7–13)

In the last days → when God sends His terrible judgments on the world (Rev. 6-16) → people will curse God and continue in their sins → they will not repent (6:15-17; 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Heb. 3:7–8)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Session 2A

1. The people of Israel persistently complained about God's will and criticized His leaders. Why do you think these are such common sins among God's people?
2. What encouragement does God offer Moses in 6:5? How might this encouragement apply to a Christian under pressure today?

Session 2B

1. Why do you think God didn't send His judgment in one terrible blow when freeing the Israelites from Egypt?
2. Pharaoh confessed his sin but then proved to be insincere. What are the marks of a sincere confession?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION THIS WEEK

Questions to consider on your own, during the week:

1. What is typically your first response to criticism?
2. What is a good response when we encounter opposition and misunderstanding, as Moses did?
3. Why did God take the approach of using sign judgments with Pharaoh? Why is this valuable for us to know?
4. What does it mean that Pharaoh hardened his heart?
5. Why can God still hold Pharaoh responsible for his hard heart when God at times was described as doing the hardening?
6. Have you ever, like Pharaoh, made a promise to God in a time of trouble but then did not follow through? If so, what kept you from following through?
7. Why do you think God didn't send His judgment in one terrible blow when freeing the Israelites from Egypt?
8. How was God's providential care for the Israelites seen in the last seven plagues?
9. What do you learn about God through the various plagues? What were God's purposes in the plagues?
10. Wiersbe says the opposite of a hard heart is a heart that fears God. What does it mean to fear God appropriately?
11. How, if at all, can a hard heart be softened?
12. Pharaoh confessed his sin but then proved to be insincere. What are the marks of a sincere confession?
13. How can a family or a church pass on to the young people the wonders God has worked in previous generations?
14. Why did Moses and Aaron reject the offer that all the people, but no flocks and herds, could go on the journey?
15. In what way is the hardening of Pharaoh's heart a warning to all of us?

